AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended)

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory which stores a plurality of captured images and additional information concerning the images the additional information including the shooting mode in which the image was captured;

an image selector which selects an image to be erased from the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a determination device which reads the additional information concerning the selected image to be erased and determines whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the read additional information;

an eraser which erases the selected image to be erased from the memory if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory, and prohibits the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a display which displays that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory; and

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a selection device in which a user selects, after displaying that a selected image is

prohibited from being erased since the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of

images, collectively erasing the selected image and the images related to the selected image or

not erasing all images related to the selected image,

~~a decision device which decides whether to collectively erase the selected image and all~~

~~the images relating to the selected image from the memory,~~

wherein the eraser erases the selected image and all the images relating to the selected

image from the memory if the selection ~~decision~~ device decides to collectively erase the selected

image and all the images relating to the selected image, and

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the

additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of

the captured images stored in the memory.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended)

An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory which stores a plurality of captured images and additional information

concerning the images, the additional information including the shooting mode in which the

image was captured;

an image selector which selects an image to be erased from the plurality of images stored

in the memory;

a determination device which reads the additional information concerning the selected

image to be erased and determines whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at

least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the read additional information;

an eraser which erases the selected image to be erased from the memory if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory, and prohibits the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory;

a display which displays that the selected image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently if the determination device determines that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of images stored in the memory; and

a selection device in which a user selects, after displaying that a selected image is prohibited from being erased since the selected image relates to at least one of the plurality of images, collectively erasing the selected image and the images related to the selected image or not erasing all images related to the selected image,

a decision device which decides whether to collectively erase the selected image and all the images relating to the selected image from the memory;

wherein the eraser erases the selected image and all the images relating to the selected image from the memory if the selection decision device decides to collectively erase the selected image and the all the images relating to the selected image, and

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored in the memory that were consecutively captured.

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Claim 5. (Previously Presented)

The image processing apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the image processing

apparatus is an electronic camera capturing the images.

Claims 6-7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended)

A method for erasing an image from a memory, comprising the steps of:

selecting the image to be erased from a plurality of captured images stored in the memory;

reading an additional information concerning the image selected in the selecting step, the

additional information including the shooting mode in which the image was captured;

determining whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality

of images stored in the memory with reference to the additional information read in the reading

step;

erasing the selected image from the memory if it is determined that the selected image

does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

prohibiting the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if it

is determined that the selected images to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of

images stored in the memory in the determining step;

if it is determined that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the

plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step, displaying that the selected

image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently, and <u>selecting</u> ~~deciding~~ <u>by a</u>

user whether to collectively erase the selected image and all ~~the~~ images relating to the selected

image to be erased from the memory <u>or not erase all images related to the selected image</u>; and

erasing the selected image and all the images relating to the selected image from the

memory if it is <u>selected</u> ~~decided~~ to collectively erase the selected image and all the images

relating to the selected image from the memory in the deciding step,

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the

additional information is a part of a panoramic image composed of at least two of the plurality of

the captured images stored in the memory.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended)

A method for erasing an image from a memory, comprising the steps of:

selecting the image to be erased from a plurality of captured images stored in the

memory;

reading an additional information concerning the image selected in the selecting step, the

additional information including the shooting mode in which the image was captured;

determining whether or not the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the

plurality of images stored in the memory with reference to the additional information read in the

reading step;

erasing the selected image from the memory if it is determined that the selected image

does not relate to any of the plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step;

prohibiting the selected image to be erased from actually being erased independently if it

is determined that the selected images to be erased relates to at least one of the plurality of

images stored in the memory in the determining step;

if it is determined that the selected image to be erased relates to at least one of the

plurality of images stored in the memory in the determining step, displaying that the selected

image to be erased is prohibited from being erased independently, and selecting ~~deciding~~ by a

user whether to collectively erase the selected image and all ~~the~~ images relating to the selected

image to be erased from the memory or not erase all images related to the selected image; and

erasing the selected image and all the images relating to the selected image from the

memory if it is selected ~~decided~~ to collectively erase the selected image and all the images

relating to the selected image from the memory in the deciding step,

wherein the additional information represents whether or not the image concerning the

additional information is a part of a sequence of at least two of the plurality of the images stored

in the memory that were consecutively captured.